No. 13 April 1983

FOOD STAMP CHANGE TOKENS

OF THE

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

By K.V. Eckardt and R. Lyall

The U.S. Virgin Islands are located on the edge of the Caribbean Sea, about forty-five miles East of Puerto Rico and approximately 1100 miles East-Southeast of Miami, Florida. They are an "unincorporated" territory of the United States and were purchased by the U.S. from Denmark in 1917 for $25 million. There are about seventy islands and islets in the group, and currently the resident population is near 100,000 persons. The three main islands are St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, the former two having about 95% of the population. The islands have an interesting colonial history prior to their acquisition by the United States which readers may wish to pursue elsewhere and which is somewhat outside the scope of this brief article.

The authors, having observed that Food Stamp Change Tokens were used extensively in Puerto Rico, thought it would be worth investigating their usage in the Virgin Islands. Fortunately, this line of thought ocurred in 1978 prior to their proscription in January, 1979. At that time contact was made with many of the businesses listed below when they were still using tokens. This aided in establishing denominations and types that existed. Later contacts were made as well.

Token searching on St. Thomas was carried out by one of the authors who hired a taxi to go around the island visiting all likely stores. The village where the taxi driver lived was visited as well, and talks with the womenfolk resulted in a few tokens not available from the shops in the town. St. Croix was visited by the other author who called on stores and spoke to local residents. Letters were written to shops that could not be visited. No Food Stamp Change tokens were located for St.

John, although enquiries were made. Substantial effort was directed to tracing all token issuers and the authors would like to think that this listing is complete. But clearly, no claim to this effect is being made.

I. St. Thomas

A. Charlotte Amalie

1. Bootsma's Bakkerij

A bakery which produces and sells a range of cakes and pastries.

Tokens: BOOTSMA'S/774-2624/BAKKERIJ
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢ (no 1 ¢ issued)

2. The Fruit Bowl

A green grocer and fruit shop.

Tokens: THE/FRUIT/BOWL (a bowl of fruit is depicted)
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢

3. Food Town

A large market apparently affiliated with International Food Services.

Tokens: FOOD/TOWN/CASH/& CARRY
Rev: PPCo SLSN. Only the 5 ¢ is known to the authors, but it is presumed that the complete token range was issued.

4. International Food Services

Two types of tokens were issued:

Tokens:

a. IFS/CASH &/CARRY
Rev: PPCo SLSN. Only the 1 ¢, 5 ¢, and 25 ¢ tokens are known to the authors, but it is presumed that the 10 ¢ and 50 ¢ exist.

b. I.F.S./CASH & CARRY/FOODTOWN
Rev: PPCo LLSN. Only the 1 ¢, 5 ¢, and 25 ¢ tokens are known to the authors, but it is presumed that the 10 ¢, and 50 ¢ exist.

5. Tri Mart

This supermarket chain has three locations in Charlotte Amalie.

Tokens: "Stylized Logo" TRI-MART
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1 ¢, 5 ¢; 10 ¢; 25 ¢; 50 ¢

6. Nordside Grocery

Tokens: ST./THOMAS/NORDSIDE/GROCERY/VIRGIN/IS.
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢

7. Pueblo Supermarkets

A large supermarket chain with many locations in Puerto Rico. The tokens used in the Virgin Islands are of the same type used in Puerto Rico.

Tokens: Pueblo (logo)
Rev: PPCo, Spanish Language (3 different types) 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢

8. Grand Union

A large supermarket chain, with many locations in Puerto Rico. The tokens used in the Virgin Islands are of the same type used in Puerto Rico. This chain no longer operates in Puerto Rico, but continues in the Virgin Islands.

Tokens: This series of tokens is in aluminum
Obr: FOOD STAMP/CREDIT TOKEN/REDEEMABLE ONLY IN/ELIGIBLE FOODS/ (VALUE)
Rev: AT/GRAND/UNION/FOOD STAMP/CREDIT TOKEN/(VALUE)

1 ¢, round 20mm; 5 ¢, octagonal 25mm; 5 ¢, square 19mm (second type); 25 ¢, round 27mm

9. Lucy's Supermarket

Located in downtown Charlotte Amalie.

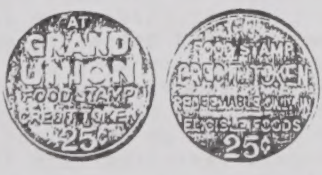
Tokens: Paper Scrip , a scrap of paper stamped with a rubber stamp at the cash register and the exact amount of change hand-written in.

B. Outside Charlotte Amalie

1. Lone Eagle Superette

Located near Cokie Point in the North East part of the island.

Tokens: LONE/EAGLE/SUPERETTE
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢



II. St. Croix

A. Christiansted

1. Gloria's Grocery

As the tokens were withdrawn leading up to January 1979, they were apparently destroyed.

Tokens: GLORIA'S/GROCERY/8B/LA GDE./ PRINCESS
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢

2. Robies Grocery

Tokens: ROBIES GROCERY (in arc)/J/R/C
Rev: PPCo LLSN; 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢

B. Christiansted and Fredericksted

1. Obando Supermarket

Tokens: OBANDO S.M./STORE NO. 1/772-0351/STORE NO. 2/772-1088
Rev: Number-of-value style; 1 ¢ (gold on black); 5 ¢ (white on green); 10 ¢ (white on blue); 25 ¢ (black on red); 50 ¢ (black on yellow).

Both authors are extremely interested in cut and countermarked coins and tokens from the West Indies including those from Bermuda, The Bahamas, British Honduras and British Guiana (but excluding those from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico). Both would be grateful if any readers could supply them with details of any previously unknown tokens from the areas mentioned.

Mr. K.V. Eckardt
Box 653
Fajardo,
Puerto Rico 00648

Mr. Robert Lyall
8, Snaefell Rise
Appleton
near Warrington
England WA4-5BW

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTES: The Virgin Islands along with Guam were latecomers in the use of Food Stamp Tokens. The listings show that the PPCo. SLSN reverse of 1975, and the LLSN, 1976-78, were apparently the only ones used. The date of the metal Grand Union pieces is so far unknown. Reports indicate that such pieces were were used by stores in at least three mainland states besides Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and possibly others. The Pueblo Stores tokens which this Editor obtained on his visit to Puerto Rico had all four Spanish-language reverse varieties (see the FSCN, October 1981, for details). Whether all four were used in the Virgin Islands is not known.

MAVERICKS/ FICHAS DESCONOCIDAS

Fellow collectors: I have fully exhaused the supply of unidentified tokens that have been sent to me. You all must have pieces which lack identification. Please send me a clean photocopy with a description of the reverse or a rub of any metal pieces. Also, take time to look through the back issues and see if you might now know the location of some of the earlier mavericks. Send to: Alon Jeffrey 366 Behm Drive Grayslake, Illinois 60030

Mavericks Identified

35. Gardner's Super Market
Corinth, Miss. (Glen Parham)

41. Our Dad's Grocery
Plattenville, La. (Glen Parham)

New Listings

47. GOOD ONLY AT/ N & S/ CERTIFIED FOR FOOD STAMPS ONLY/ 5 c alum. round 22 mm. (not from Ill.)

48. MAN-DELL/ KEY/ FOOD/ FOOD STORES INC. molded variety

49. TARGET/ (arrow in bull's eye) (LLSN)

50. TRADE-FAIR/ MARKET/ FRESH-MEAT (LLSN)

LOUISIANA: 1939-43

Alon Jeffrey notes that the new Merchant's Tokens book, LOUISIANA TRADE TOKENS, by Louis Crawford, Glyn Farber and Edmund Tylenda has several New Orleans listings for tokens of the earliest period.

1. CAZAUBON/ NEW/ GROCERY/ 1939/ SECOND ST.//
   5¢/ Blue, Brass 21mm
   5¢/ Orange, Brass 21mm
   10¢/ Orange, Brass 21mm

2. S.J. CUSINANO/ 1240/ S. LIBERTY ST.//
   1¢/ Orange, brass 26mm
   5¢/ Orange, brass 26mm

3. FERRET/ CASH/ GROCERY//
   5¢/ Orange, brass 21mm

4. GERACI'S/ FOOD/ STORE/ 1738/ DANTE ST.//
   1¢/ Blue, alum. 21mm
   1¢/ Orange, brass 21mm
   5¢/ Orange, brass 21mm

5. PAP'S FOOD STORE 3142-44 ST. CLAUDE AVE. N.O.//
   5¢/ Orange, brass 21mm
   5¢/ Blue, brass 21mm

6. M. RICCA/ 2936/ WASH. AVE.//
   1¢/ Blue, alum. 21mm
   5¢/ Orange, brass 21mm
   (also an error "N. Ricca")

The authors also list one other metal maverick which probably is not from the early period: WAGNER'S SUPER MARKET/ FOOD/ STAMP/ CHANGE/ 2037/ DESIRE ST.//
   Good For/ 1¢/ In Trade, al 17mm
   Good For/ 5¢/ In Trade, al 23mm

The book is available from Mr. Farber, 1618-15th St., Lake Charles, Louisiana.

CHINATOWN'S TOKENS

I haven't written much about my own token hunting, but the Dupont Market contact was one of my most interesting. The store is located on the corner of Grant and Pacific Avenues on the northeastern edge of Chinatown in San Francisco. It is a fish and poultry market catering primarily to Chinese, but because of the grade of the catches, there is a high percentage of caucasian customers. On Saturdays the store is teeming with customers poking at the fish piled high on tile slabs. Roast, glazed ducks hang from hooks. Personnel run back and forth, and the owner, Jerry, in his hard hat and tan smock, is working just as hard. Everyone is chattering in Cantonese, the main dialect of Chinatown. The place is jammed and the smell of fish is overwhelming.

大華 結孖板都 金山
SINCE 1914
Dupont Market
Wholesale & Retail
Fresh Fish & Shellfish
Meats, Poultry
Chinese Delicatessen Featuring Cryovac - Packed Roast Ducks
And Take Out Cooked Food
1100 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, Calif. 94133
(Corner of Pacific Ave.)
Phone: 986-3723

I had gone to the market about a year before and received a cold, beady-eyed reception from the woman who runs the cash register. She gave me one or two tokens implying that that was all there were and please don't come back. I insisted on leaving my name and phone which she grudgingly accepted. About a year later Jerry called me out of the blue asking if I wanted his tokens. I went on a Saturday and waited for three hours in the crowd with the fish. Jerry turned out to be very friendly. I went to the office and looked at tokens while he bought fish over the phone.

There were two kinds of PPCo tokens, Type I with the SLSN reverse and Type II with the LLSN. There are variations in the word "Chinatown." Of Type I there were only the following left: 1¢ - 2, 5¢ - 3, 10¢ - 4, 25¢ - 6 and no 50¢ tokens. Of Type II there were 1¢ - 7, 5¢ - 114, 10¢ - 183, 25¢ - 102 and 50¢ - 86. These will certainly be among the most scarce of the whole series.

The only other FSC tokens with Chinese calligraphy that are known to me are those from Fong's Market in Honolulu, and so far their availability is unknown.

JFS.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

Remember that the FSCN runs from July 1 to June 30, so please send your checks in right away - $4.50, no rise in price. Also enclose your free 30-word ad to run for one whole year.

IOWA

As you can see Lewis Ferguson has once again shown his pioneering spirit. Back in 1972 Lewis was one of the first authors of a book on state Merchants' tokens along with Steve Album and Ore Vacketta. I am pleased that he chose to work with us in providing this year's supplement.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

We were just as lucky to have Ken Eckardt, one of our subscribers, and his colleague, Bob Lyall, prepare an article on a series that will be scarce from the start. Ken is in the electronics manufacturing business, having spent most of his recent years in the Caribbean. He and Bob have been collecting together since 1976. Bob is more of an enigma, though he is an Englishman. He has an outstanding skill in convincing people to give up treasured pieces in exchange for still others. Their mútual friend, Edward Roehrs, of Arecibo PR, an author on PR tokens in his own right loaned several pieces for photocopying.

T-I

T-II

the FOOD STAMP CHANGE NEWSLETTER is Edited and Published by Jerry F. Schimmel in July, October, January and April. Mavericks Editor is Alon Jeffrey, 366 Behm Dr. Grayslake IL 60030. For the year 1982-83 the subscription rate is $4.50. Late subscribers receive all back issues for that year. All subscribers may submit a 30 word ad to be run free all year. Full page ads are $8.50, half-pages are $4.50, quarter pages are $3.00. Copy must be submitted by June 15, Sep. 15, Dec. 15 and Mar. 15. Full page material must be no larger than 11½x7½ inches. Newsletters are mailed before the 10th of the month.

My main collecting interests are Transportation and INDIANA Trade Tokens and Moose Lodge pieces of all states and countries. Jack Smith, Box 26423, Lawrence IN 46226.

Sets of 5 plastic FSC tokens from U-SAV FOODS, MADISON, WI. Trade even for different tokens or $2 postpaid. Len Roosmalen, 6801 University Av., Middleton WI 53562.

Wanted: Food Stamp items from MISSOURI and COLORADO. Also buying ration material, Sambo's, Sales Tax items and prison tokens. Send prices and description. Geo. Van Trump, Jr., Box 26523, Lakewood CO 80226.

Will trade one for one my State Sales Tax Tokens or OPA Tokens for your Food Stamp Credit Tokens. I still need your help in reporting issues of Sport Schedule Tokens. J.W. Baum, 3101 N.Arkansas Av., Wichita KS 67204.

The ANA Museum is still looking for Food Stamp Tokens and Paper Scrip for its museum. Write to the ANA Museum, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs CO 80901.

Wanted: ILLINOIS Tokens including Food Stamp tokens. D. Frank Elam, 56 Sauk Trail, Park Forest IL 60466.

OHIO Merchant Tokens wanted. I have traders. Also have Ohio FSC tokens. Joe Emmons, 5630 Murray Road, Hillsboro OH 45133.

RHODE ISLAND Tokens of all types wanted. Describe and price to me Have material for trades. S. Bertram Tabor, 50 North St. Cranston, RI 02920

FOOD STAMP CHANGE TOKENS & SCRIP

A WHOLESALE LISTING

100 Different Food Stamp Tokens of different merchants, of plastic, aluminum, wood and from different makers (no full sets included)	$30.00
500 Different tokens as above, but includes some complete sets from various states	125.00
1000 Different as above	250.00
2000 Different as above	500.00
100 Assorted Tokens	17.50
1000 Assorted Tokens	150.00
5000 Assorted Tokens	650.00
100 Different Food Stamp Scrip, all paper	15.00
200 Different as above	25.00
1000 Assorted Scrip	75.00

Samples of tokens and scrip free for 28¢ SASE!

All orders postpaid to street address (for U.P.S. delivery).

PAUL A. CUNNINGHAM
BOX ONE
TECUMSEH, MI 49286

ODON, IN - Red & White Quality. Three piece plastic PPCo set 1¢,5¢,10¢ - $1.50 postpaid. All 25¢ destroyed, 50¢ not used by store. Lloyd E. Wagaman, Route 1, Box 195-D, Camby IN 46113.

FOR SALE TWO 1982 NEBRASKA BOOKS - TRADE TOKEN TOWN RARITY LIST - $5.00 and 3,400 PLACE NAMES - $7.50, both postpaid - will trade for tokens - Geo. Hosek, 7411 Idledale, Omaha NE 68112.

WANTED: Food Stamp Change Tokens from FLORIDA, ALABAMA and GEORGIA I have tokens from these states for trade. C.R.Clark, P.O. Box 13331, St. Petersburg FL 33733.

Wanted U.S. VIRGIN IS. FSC Tokens for collection. Do not need in quantity or bulk. Also interested in other WEST INDIAN tokens. K.V.Eckardt, Box 653, Fajardo, PR 00648.

Wanted: INDIANA and ALASKA tokens with state and town printed on token. Dog Tax Tags my choice - 9 for $2.00 plus SAE with 37¢ in stamps. Virginia King, R.6, Rd. 650 W., Columbia City IN 46725.

Wanted: FLORIDA FST. Will trade other FLORIDA FST. Also collect FL merchants tokens and have traders from FL and other states. Edw. R. Joyce, 5552 Riverton Rd. Jacksonville FL 32211.

Does anyone have any unreported KANSAS FSC Tokens? I'm also cataloguing Sport Schedule Tokens and would appreciate knowing of any issues from your state. J.W. Baum, 3101 N. Arkansas Av. Wichita KS 76204.

I collect Food Stamp Items with the words "milk" or "dairy" on them as part of my collection of such trade tokens. I have a few other FSC tokens to trade. Melvin Reiter, 6482 Newton Rd., East Lansing MI 48823.

Have many hundreds of tokens for trade or sale. Send your want lists of items you need. I need tokens from my collecting list. Bill Coleman, P.O. Box 905, Richland WA 99352.

Wanted PUERTO RICO, GUAM, VIRGIN ISLANDS. Have more than 200 diff. tokens from PUERTO RICO to trade or sell. Jose B.Andreu, P.O. Box 22845, UPR Sta., Rio Piedras PR 00931.

SAMPLE Change Tokens wanted. Also unusual sizes, shapes, colors & materials as TYPE tokens. Some trades available. Tom Conklin, P.O. Box 440, Rutherford NJ 07070

Wanted: Encased Postage Stamps, Postal Money Orders, Postal Reply Coupons, Traveller's Checks - worldwide. Paul T. Juno, 2809 Linden Ln., Silver Spring MD 20910.

TEXAS - Brazoria County items needed for collection and cataloguing effort (or reports of their existence). Also collect Texas Numismatic items - all sorts. Ronny Livingston, 229 Caladium, Lake Jackson TX 77566.

WANTED! WANTED!
Food Stamp Credit Tokens from MICHIGAN AND WEST VIRGINIA. Steve Penzes, 9312 W. Fort St., Detroit MI 48209/

Wanted: OLD ANIMAL LICENSES any state. Have large trading stock in tokens and other collectables and Dog Tags. Will buy one or complete collection of all types of exonumia. Clay Welty, 8410 W. 108th Av. Broomfield, CO 80020

SASE for my list of FSC tokens for trade or sale. Some full rolls. Or send any number of different FSC tokens receive like number from me. Alon Jeffrey, 366 Behm Drive, Grayslake IL 60030

Small town U.S.A. and CANADA POST CARDS wanted.- pre-linens, exteriors, interiors, real photos, main streets clearly showing BANKS! (none over 5 stories). Send on approval. Tom Conklin, Box 440 Rutherford NJ 07070.

Wanted NEBRASKA Exonumia and Biz Directories. Have good stock of traders from IA, MN, SD, KS, MO, CA, IL and NE and others. Geo. Hosek, 7411 Idledale Ln., Omaha NE 68112.

FSC Tokens wanted, esp. MINNESOTA Trades are available. Also seek FS scrip, any other tokens, medals wood money (esp.MN), coins, stamps paper money, seals. Grade tokens please! Marshal Bieniasz, 308 S. Main, Aurora MN 55705.

PEDRO"S, AGANA, GUAM! - 1,5,10, 25 & 50¢ plastic FSC Tokens - $3.50 per set postpaid. Will also trade for FSC Tokens from AZ, ID, NV, OK, DC & VI. Al Zaika, P.O. Box Bellmawr NJ 08031.

Wanted! FLORIDA FSC and other merchant tokens. Have traders or will buy. N.R.Mack, P.O.Box 395, Goose Creek SC 29445.